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VOICE of the Valley

55TH YEAR, NUMBER 47
MAPLE VALLEY, WASHINGTON
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2024



Maple Valley Veterans Memorial Dedicated

By Cary Collins

The nation which forgets its defenders will itself be forgotten.

Calvin Coolidge

Despite the gloomy weather, the spirits of over 500 community members remained high as they gathered to dedicate the Maple Valley Veterans Memorial on Veterans Day, Monday, November 11, 2024. While some work remains, the memorial is nearing completion after a decade of planning, fundraising, and construction.

Brett Habenicht, President of The Greater Maple Valley Veterans Memorial Foundation

and a Navy veteran, spoke about the vision behind the project, located at the corner of Witte Road and SE 248th Street. The memorial has been designed with three key objectives, he said: to be visually striking and aesthetically pleasing, to complement and enhance the natural surroundings and nearby structures, and to stand as a dignified tribute worthy of the veterans it honors.

During the dedication, the centerpiece of the memorial—a large American flag flying proudly from a thirty-foot flagpole—was unveiled for the first time. This was

followed by the raising of a POW-MIA flag and service branch flags on twenty-five-foot poles. Soon, a walkway of inscribed and charter bricks will guide visitors into the memorial. Inside, five walls, each representing a branch of the military, will feature black granite inlays etched with the names of veterans who have lived or currently reside within the historic boundaries of the Tahoma School District. In front of each branch wall, granite benches will provide visitors with places to reflect and honor the service of these men and women. The design ensures privacy for individual visitors and

families while also offering ample space for public ceremonies and events.

The dedication ceremony provided the Memorial Foundation with an opportunity to express its gratitude to those who contributed their time, money, energy, and resources to bring the memorial to fruition. The project could not have been realized without their support. Their unyielding dedication serves as an inspiration to all and stands as a personal tribute to the military veterans of our community.

No mention of the Maple Valley

Veterans Memorial would be complete without recognizing the late United States Marine, SSgt. Storm McNeil. As Vice President of The Greater Maple Valley Veterans Memorial Foundation, SSgt. McNeil worked tirelessly from his home on Dorre Don, laying the groundwork for the memorial in its earliest stages. His fellow board members are united in their praise, that he was the driving force behind many of the project's key accomplishments, always pushing forward with his unwavering determination that

(Continued on page 2)

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Black Diamond Police Reports

On 09/30/2024, Officers were dispatched to a 911 hang up in the 32400 block of 236th AVE SE. Officers were able to make contact with the reporting party. She advised she thought she had heard someone attempting to break into her residence. Officers conducted a walk through of the home and a walk around the perimeter of the residence, there were no signs of criminal activity.

threat report by phone. A subject stated that their roommate made direct threats towards his life and was in fear of the threat made. Officer's developed probable cause and arrested the roommate for Harassment.

On 10/11/2024, Officers observed a suspicious vehicle at the 24100 block of SE 288th St. Officers ran the vehicles license plate and discovered it had a stolen status. Officers confirmed the stolen status and recovered the vehicle back to the registered owner.

On 09/30/2024, Officers were dispatched to the 31100 block of 3rd Ave reference to a physical domestic in progress. Upon arrival an investigation was conducted and an arrest was made for assault in the 4th degree (DV). The subject was booked into the Enumclaw Jail.

On 10/05/2024, at approximately 18:50 hours, officers were dispatched to the 32400 block of 5th AVE for suspicious activity. The reporting party stated that the neighbor was selling/giving tobacco products to her underage sons. Officers arrived on scene and attempted contact with the involved parties. After an investigation, officers determined that a crime was committed. A criminal citation for Selling/Giving Tobacco to Minor will be issued to the involved subject.

On 10/11/2024, officers were dispatched to a report of malicious mischief at the 32900 block of Railroad Ave. Officers located the suspect and established probable cause for the crime of malicious mischief in the 3rd degree DV. Officers booked the suspect into SCORE jail.

On 10/02/2024 at approximately 1910 hours, an officer was dispatched to contact a parent in reference to their adult daughter who lives in the 22800 block of SE Fir Street, whom they could not reach. Through investigation, officers identified the daughter was at work, and not in need of assistance.

On 10/06/2024, officers observed a traffic violation at the 25500 block of Lawson St. Through investigation officers on scene determined probable existed for the crime of NVOL without ID. Officers administratively booked the suspect into Enumclaw jail.

On 10/12/2024, officers observed a male subject sleeping on a mattress at the 24000 block of Roberts Dr. Officers provided the subject food, water and a blanket. Officers submitted a referral for the Recovery Navigator Program to help assist the subject in finding a shelter. RNP staff arrived on scene and offered the subject transport to a shelter in Tacoma which they refused. Officers provided the subject a courtesy transport to Safeway in Maple Valley.

On 10/03/2024, officers observed a traffic violation at the 31500 block of 3rd Ave. During the officers contact with the subject, officers determined probable cause for the crime of DWLS 2nd Degree. Officers arrested the subject and booked them into Issaquah jail.

On 10/06/2024, Officers were conducting a routine business check of the Palmer Coking Coal property. During the business check officers discovered an individual on the property dressed in camo and carrying a compound bow. Officers forwarded information to the Department of Fish and Wildlife and issued a criminal citation for violation of BDMC 9.112.010, hunting within the city limits of Black Diamond.

On 10/13/2024 an officer observed a collision that just occurred in the intersection of 216th AVE SE and SE 292nd ST. A collision report was written and both vehicles were removed from the scene by the drivers. The at-fault driver was cited for the violation that led to the collision.

On 10/3/2024 at 1427 hours, the Black Diamond Police Department was flagged down by a local citizen who stated a theft recently occurred at their residence. Officer's were advised multiple subjects were seen via their home security cameras stealing a flag from their front yard and left the property. Several other homes had flags stolen from their property as well. This investigation is ongoing.

On 10/07/2024, Officers received an email from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Seattle Division regarding a report/tip submitted to them. FBI Seattle is not taking any action on it and referred it to the Black Diamond Police Department for awareness. Officers contacted an involved party, this is currently under investigation.

Maple Valley Veterans Memorial Dedicated

(Continued from page 1)

"WE GET THIS BUILT!"
The Greater Maple Valley Veterans Memorial will serve as a lasting tribute to the community, providing a space to remember, pay tribute to, and thank those who have served. According to Brett Habenicht, its significance is profound. "Our community, like many small towns across the country, is home to men and women who answered the call to serve their country," he explains. "The memorial foundation was created with one clear goal in mind: to build a fitting tribute to our veterans and to offer a powerful, visual reminder to all who live here that we are surrounded by real-life heroes."

On 10/3/2024 at 1620 hours, the Black Diamond Police Department responded to a Welfare Check at the 22800 block of SE 288th St. Officer's were advised that sounds of children screaming were coming from within the home. Officer's arrived on scene and were advised the children were screaming at a video game they were playing. No Police services were needed.

On 10/7/2024, an officer conducted a traffic stop in the 31500 block of 3rd Ave. The Officer found the driver was committing three criminal traffic offenses and found infraction violations. The driver also had a warrant for their arrest. The subject was arrested. While being transported to jail the subject claimed to have swallowed drugs. The subject was released from custody so they could be evaluated at the hospital.

On 10/4/2024 at 1559 hours, the Black Diamond Police Department responded to a



An Encouraging Word Taylor Creek Church
By Pastor Jason Katen



Right Where You Need to Be

"In the eleventh century, King Henry III of Bavaria grew tired of court life and the pressures of being a monarch. He made an application to Prior Richard at a local monastery, asking to be accepted as a contemplative (a religious order devoted to prayer and penance) and spend the rest of his life in the monastery.

"Your Majesty," said Prior Richard, "do you understand that the pledge here is one of obedience? That will be hard because you have been a king." "I understand," said Henry. "The rest of my life, I will be obedient to you, as Christ leads you." "Then I will tell you what to do," said Prior Richard. "Go back to your throne and serve faithfully in the place where God has put you."

When we tire of our roles and responsibilities, it is important that we do not allow our feelings to become our focus and, in turn, dictate our future. Like King Henry, we need to be reminded that God has planted us in certain places and told us that everything we do is to be done for His Glory (1 Corinthians 10:31). This means that whatever God has us doing, whether in the business world, the home or as a volunteer, we have a greater purpose in life.

I like the bumper sticker that says, "My Boss is a Jewish Carpenter." This is a great perspective to have! We should be working then with joy in our hearts and praise on our lips, understanding that wherever God has us right now is right where we need to be until He leads us to do something else.

Would you like to know more? We would love to speak with you. Call us at 425-432-0634 or contact us at www.taylorcreekchurch.org. We invite you to join us for Sunday service: 9:00 AM for Sunday School and 10:15 AM for Worship. We are located at 21110 244th Ave. S.E., Maple Valley.



Church Information and Services

HOPE FELLOWSHIP
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Hope Fellowship, 21115 Kent Kangley Road just past Sawyer's Village. 425-432-5114. www.HopeFellowship.net

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We meet at 19001A SE 272nd, Covington •Sundays: 9:45 a.m. Pastor Jimmy John Morris at 253-631-6886. www.mtnvineyard.org

TAYLOR CREEK CHURCH
A place for you to grow in your relationship with the Lord and fellowship with His people. We invite you to join us each Sunday for Sunday School Classes for all ages at 9 am, and for our Worship Service with verse-by-verse teaching of the Word of God at 10:15 am. (Children's Church and Nursery are provided through Kindergarten) A cry room is provided for nursing mothers with a video feed of the service.
We invite you to also join us throughout the week for personal encouragement and spiritual growth through Adult Small Group Bible Studies, Studies for Men, Studies for Women, as well as Youth Ministry (grades 7-12) and Adventure Club (ages 3 through grade 6).
We are located at 21110 244th Ave. SE (right off Hwy 18). For more information about our church or other activities, please call the church office at (425) 432-0634 or visit our website at www.taylorcreekchurch.org. Senior Pastor: Jason Katen

Obituaries printed in VOICE



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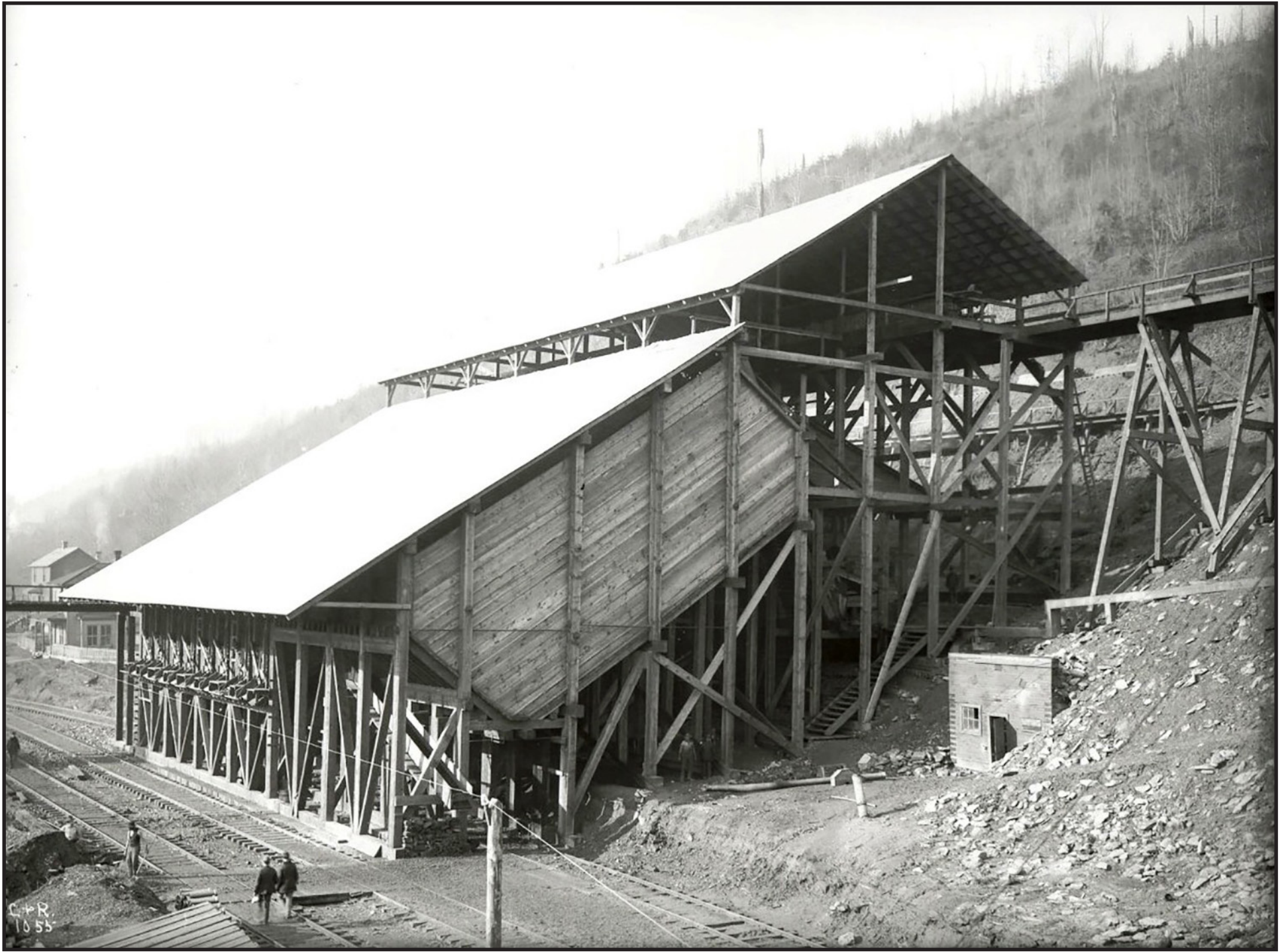


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When Coal Was King

By Bill Kombol



Franklin was developed for coal mining and operated as a company town from 1885 to 1922. Franklin's purpose was linked to 53-million-year-old coal seams discovered by Victor Tull in 1882. The town was named after Benjamin Franklin.

The Oregon Improvement Company in cooperation with the Black Diamond Coal Mining Company induced the Columbia & Puget Sound Railroad to extend tracks all the way from Renton. The railroad reached Franklin in early 1885 with the first coal shipped to Seattle in June.

Franklin's early years were dominated by labor strife and mining disasters. In 1891, African-Americans from Missouri and Illinois were given free train tickets to travel west for jobs, only to discover they were imported strike-breakers. Violence soon erupted and the National Guard was deployed following two violent deaths. Unionization efforts collapsed and some blacks left town, but many stayed working beside white miners. Three years later, on August 24, 1894, a tragic fire claimed the lives of 37 miners. It was the second-worst coal mine disaster in Washington state history.

In 1896, the Pacific Coast Company purchased the town making new investments and increasing production. Eight years later Pacific Coast acquired the Black Diamond mines. Coal mining in Franklin expanded and by the late 1890s and early 1900s coal production was averaging nearly 200,000 tons per year. Its peak population was 1,100. However, after 1908 coal output slumped and employment fell to less than 150 miners.

The Cannon Mine on the Gem seam opened around 1912 and became the town's last. It closed in 1922, not with a bang but a whimper. Several small mines attempted coal recovery in the mid-1930s but were unsuccessful. Later mining efforts were undertaken during World War II but generally failed. In 1948, Palmer Coking Coal Company obtained leases to mine Franklin's numerous coal seams by surface and underground methods.

Palmer's efforts prospered, and in 1953 the company purchased all the King County property and mineral holdings of Pacific Coast Coal Company. Palmer continued underground mining until 1971 and surface operations on Franklin Hill until 1981.

Over the nearly a century of operations, Franklin produced 4.15 million tons of coal, at a cost of 88 recorded fatalities. Daniel S. Carey, a Black Diamond resident was Franklin's last coal mine death. He was crushed in the Franklin Gem mine on November 21, 1942, when a large chunk of bony coal fell on him.

In 1973 Washington State Parks acquired most of the

old town site, vertical mine shaft, and historic cemetery as part of the Green River Gorge conservation area. In 1983, Green River Community College conducted an extensive historical and archaeological project under the direction of Gerald Hedlund and assisted by Mark Vernon. Their efforts produced a 1994 book, "From Smoke to Mist" an archeological study of Franklin, Washington.

This Feb. 19, 1902 view of a Franklin coal bunker for storing and loading coal was taken by the famous photography team of Asahel Curtis and William Romans. The small figures in the lower left corner are two men walking along the Columbia & Puget Sound Railroad tracks, while two others work nearby. This photo number 1055 comes courtesy of the Washington State Historical Society in Tacoma, WA.

VOICE Welcomes Letters

The VOICE of the Valley welcomes letters to the editor on any subject, although we reserve the right to edit for space, potential libel, and/or political relevance. Letters addressing local news will receive priority.

We prefer letters to be typed and E-mail is preferred. Letters must be signed and have a daytime phone number and address to verify authorship. Deadline for letters is 3 p.m. on Thursday each week.

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2nd Annual Ten Trails Turkey Trot

Join us for our 2nd Annual Ten Trails Turkey Trot 5K hosted by the Ten Trails Active Club! The race will be on Thursday, November 28 at 8:30 a.m. in Civic Park.

Registration is open and free but must be done prior to race day with the link below. <https://tentrailsactiveclub.wixsite.com/.../ten-trails>

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6th Annual Maple Valley Turkey Trot

Thanksgiving Day at Lake Wilderness Park 22500 SE 248th Street, Maple Valley, WA 98038.

Thursday, November 28 at 9 a.m. Go to bit.ly/maplevalleyturkeytrot for more information.

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ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION
Long Towing Inc., 652 Elliott Ave W., Seattle, WA 98119. 206-900-0005. **Friday, November 22, 2024.** Viewing 8 a.m. - 10 a.m. Auction at 10 a.m.

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2004	Mazda	3	Gray
Vin: JM1BK343441154431			
Year	Make	Model	Color
2020	Hyundai	Veloster	White
Vin: KMHT36AH1LU003350			

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ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION
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DECEMBER EVENTS

It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas! Emerald Theatre's A Christmas Carol, co-produced by The Maple Valley Creative Arts Council, comes to the Maple Valley Creative Arts Center **December 7 through December 14**. The play remains true to the original Charles Dickens' classic, published in 1843. It tells the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, a miserly old man who learns the value of generosity and kindness after being visited on Christmas Eve by the ghost of deceased partner, Marley, and three ghosts who embody the spirit of Christmas. Emerald Theatre's production features twelve actors who bring to life a variety of characters. The themes of economic disparity, compassion and forgiveness ring as true today as they did two centuries ago. The play is directed and adapted by Earlene DeLeon, Artistic Director for Emerald Theatre, who has also directed the company's outdoor Summer Shakespeare, performed in Maple Valley, Covington and Auburn for the past three years. **A Christmas Carol Saturday, December 7 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, December 8 at 2 p.m. Friday, December 13 at 7 p.m. Saturday, December 14 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.** Performances at the Maple Valley Creative Arts Center 23220 Maple Valley Black Diamond Rd. SE, Maple Valley, WA 98038

Tickets on sale now at Emerald Theatre and MVCAC websites www.emeraldtheatre.org/ [1] or <https://mvcac.clubexpress.com/> [2] Tickets are limited! Be sure to get yours early!

General Admission: \$20 Seniors/Youth 6-17/Military: \$15 Children 5 and under: Free Group tickets: 10 or more tickets purchased together 10% discount. Discount code scrooge24 Hear what audiences are saying about Emerald Theatre! "... wonderful, creative theatre group!!" "They did a wonderful job, such a fun community outing!" "A really fun afternoon." "It was such a great play - thanks for bringing community theatre to Covington!"

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